

Chichester District Council

CABINET

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Cultural Grants Funding Agreement Extension

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To recommend to Council an extension of support of £187,500 for one year (April 2023 to March 2024) be awarded to Chichester Festival Theatre to be funded from the existing revenue budget.
- 2.2 To recommend to Council an extension of support of £130,000 for one year (April 2023 to March 2024) be awarded to Pallant House Gallery to be funded from the existing revenue budget.

3. Background

- 3.1 In 2016, a formal review of funding for Chichester Festival Theatre (CFT) and Pallant House Gallery (PHG) was initiated to consider the future of the funding arrangements, under the heading of "Cultural Grants". Recommendations were presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November 2016 and were approved by Cabinet in December 2016.
- 3.2 Annual funding of £187,500 for CFT and £130,000 for PHG for the years 2018 to 2022 was committed. The funding agreements are conditional upon the reporting to the satisfaction of the Council (acting reasonably) on annual activity and the Grantee continuing to receive Arts Council England (ACE) funding for the same period.
- 3.3 On 19 January 2021, Council agreed to a one-year extension to the funding agreements until 31 March 2023 in line with an extension of ACE funding. This enabled the theatre and gallery to continue and extend their work with the local community and targeted groups for the long recovery from the lockdowns as a result of covid-19.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1 A joint social and economic impact assessment between CFT, PHG and The Novium Museum was planned during 2020/21 but due to covid this was not progressed at that time. Discussions with both organisations has highlighted that even this year the validity of results from a social and economic impact study are going to be heavily affected by covid. The return of customers is still significantly below pre-covid figures and therefore it is felt that it would be more beneficial to wait for the studies to be completed in 2023/24 to allow for a fuller recovery of operations.
- 4.2 CFT and PHG have just submitted their National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) ACE Funding Application for 2023-26. An initial offer of conditional investment should be announced in October 2022 with a final funding agreement being agreed and signed by February 2023. The continued support from the district council will be favourably considered in ACE's assessment of the NPO funding applications.

5. Proposal

- 5.1 To recommend to Council that a further extension of support for one year be awarded to Chichester Festival Theatre and Pallant House Gallery to be funded from the existing revenue budget.
- 5.2 Complete the joint Social and Economic Impact Assessment early in 2023/24 and understand the ACE NPO Funding allocation for 2023/26 so this information can feed into the Council's funding review of cultural grants.

6. Alternatives Considered

- 6.1 The other option available is not to offer the extension and undertake a full review during 2022-23 of the cultural funding currently being offered by the council to CFT and PHG.
- 6.2 This year however is already a busy time of partnership working with a full programme of events and activities being delivered by all parties to promote the districts Culture and celebrate the organisations anniversaries through Culture Spark.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

- 7.1 The one-year extension to the current funding agreement is a total cost of £317,500. In effect this is a reduction to the support offered to CFT and PHG due to the current inflation levels.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 Consultation has taken place with the Novium Task and Finish Group regarding the timing of the social and economic impact assessment. The options for the cultural grants have been discussed with Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Community Services and Culture.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 9.1 Securing funding for an additional year will enable the theatre and gallery to continue and extend the work they do with the local community and targeted groups for the long recovery from the lockdowns as a result of covid-19.

9.2 This extension also allows the findings of the social and economic impact studies to feed into the review of funding and the Council will also know the outcome of the ACE NPO Funding for 2023-26.

9.3 Any impact on funding may restrict the Council's partnership work with the Gallery and Theatre to develop a legacy project as a result of this year's Culture Spark programme.

10. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		X
Climate Change and Biodiversity		X
Human Rights and Equality Impact		X
Safeguarding and Early Help		X
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		X
Health and Wellbeing		X
Other (please specify)		

11. Appendices

11.1 None

12. Background Papers

12.1 None